

“OMWBE’s Business Planners Connect Certified Firms to Washington State Transit Insurance Pool (WSTIP) Opportunities”

The Washington State Transit Insurance Pool (WSTIP) is a key partner and contractor to the Washington State Transportation Training Coalition (Training Coalition). The Training Coalition’s mission is to provide low cost training to organizations providing transportation to the public. The Training Coalition provides 25-30 training opportunities a year. WSTIP contacted the Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprises seeking experienced DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) trainers for classroom and webinar presentations on transit-specific topics.

WSTIP representatives described their organization and goals to OMWBE-certified firms during one of OMWBE’s recent Business Planner sessions. “One of our goals,” said Joanne Kerrigan, WSTIP’s Administrative Assistant who manages training details for the Training Coalition “is to increase DBE representation in our trainer pool, and our next goal is to find fresh talent.”

WSTIP asked interested trainers to submit a resume, references, topical experience, and their pricing structure (day and half-day) for review. Resumes flowed in and were reviewed. WSTIP then scheduled two days for selected participants to give 30 minute mini- trainings. Each trainer was evaluated for their training style and topical knowledge. “It was a wonderful experience,” related Kerrigan. “We invited 12 trainers to give presentations, and asked two other insurance pools to participate in the review.” The best news of all? “The trainers were terrific. We selected 6 trainers for use this year, and will keep the others in reserve if their topical expertise is chosen by the Board at a later date.”

OMWBE’s Business Planners are held twice each month at OMWBE’s Olympia office. Several sessions are also held in Seattle. Please check OMWBE’s website at <http://www.omwbe.wa.gov/training/documents/2010%20business%20planner%20schedule.pdf> for the current schedule. You can participate by attending in person or via ReadyTalk (Internet/Teleconference). When you attend in person, you can meet with agency buyers individually as well as introduce yourself to other M/WBEs and explore possible partnering opportunities.